



# State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee

Post Office Box 94004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

**Michael Abbiatti**  
Chairman  
(225) 342-4253  
(225) 342-6926 fax  
Abbiatti@regents.state.la.us

**Rizwan Ahmed**  
Vice Chairman  
(225) 342-7105  
(225) 219-4994 fax  
Rizwan.Ahmed@la.gov

## STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Wednesday, June 7, 2006**

The Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Wednesday, June 7, 2006, at the Claiborne Building, Board of Regents Conference Room, 6th Floor, Room 242, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Committee Chair Michael Abbiatti called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m. The roll was called by Ms. Diane Didier, Support Staff for the Committee, and a quorum was established.

### **Committee Members Present:**

Michael Abbiatti (Chair)

Rizwan Ahmed (Vice-Chair)

Chief Robert Black

Lt. Colonel Joey Booth

Arnold Chauviere

Sheriff Ricky Edwards (Audio Conf.)

Norman Ferachi

Colonel Kenneth Hughes

Lt. Colonel Freddie Morris

Pat Potier

Susan Severance

Colonel Eric Sivula

### **Representing Agency:**

LA Broadband Advisory Council/

LA Board of Regents

Office of Information Technology

LA Fire Chief's Association

LA State Police

LA Public Service Commission

LA Sheriff's Association

Police Chief's Association

LA Sheriff's Association &

Region 1 Plaquemines OHSEP

LA National Guard

Dept. of Health & Hospitals

Attorney General's Office & GOHSEP

Dept. of Public Safety/Corrections,

Corrections Services

### **Committee Members Absent:**

James Anderson

Senator Robert Barham

Sandy Davis

Eric Deroche

Dean Dozier

Joe Drago

Richard Gremillion

### **Representing Agency:**

Region 4 Iberia OHSEP

LA Senate Select Committee on

Homeland Security

Region 7 Caddo/Bossier OHSEP

Region 3 Assumption/St. James OHSEP

Region 8 Ouachita OHSEP

Dept. of Transportation/Development

Regional Parish Homeland Security &

Emergency Preparedness Directors Committee

(Continued)

**Committee Members Absent:**

Commissioner Jerry Luke LeBlanc  
Senator Robert Marionneaux  
Representative Daniel Martiny

JoAnne Moreau  
Michael Ranatza  
Lt. Colonel Brian Spillman  
Tommy Thiebaud  
Representative Francis Thompson  
  
Sonya Wiley-Gremillion

**Representing Agency:**

Division of Administration  
LA State Senate Judiciary B Committee  
LA House of Representatives Committee  
on Administration of Criminal Justice  
Region 2 East Baton Rouge OHSEP  
LA Commission on Law Enforcement  
Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Region 9 Washington OHSEP  
LA House of Representatives Special  
Committee on LA Homeland Security  
Region 6 Rapides OHSEP

**Support Staff Present:**

Diane Didier (LA Board of Regents)

**Guest List  
See Appendix**

**III. Approval of the Minutes of May 12, 2006**

Mr. Michael Abbiatti, Chair, noted a correction was made by Mr. Norman Ferachi regarding Chief Newell Normand's title to be reflected as Chief Deputy throughout the minutes where his name was mentioned.

**On motion of Lt. Colonel Joey Booth, seconded by Ms. Susan Severance, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of May 12, 2006, as amended.**

**Approval of the Minutes of May 31, 2006**

Mr. Michael Abbiatti, Chair, noted a correction was made by Ms. Susan Severance under Agenda Item V. - Discussion of the minutes. Ms. Severance stated that Committee members attending the meeting electronically could not speak or vote during the meeting.

**On motion of Ms. Susan Severance, seconded by Colonel Kenneth Hughes, the Board voted unanimously to accept the correction of the minutes under Agenda Item V. – Discussion, whereby it was stated by Ms. Severance that the Committee members attending the meeting electronically could not speak or vote during the meeting.**

**On motion of Colonel Kenneth Hughes, seconded by Lt. Colonel Joey Booth, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of May 31, 2006.**

**IV. Special Presentations – Region 1**

Mr. Abbiatti introduced Colonel Kenneth Hughes representing Region 1 Plaquemines OHSEP with his presentation on the status of interoperable communications for Region

1. Following the presentation, a request was made for Colonel Hugh's PowerPoint presentation to be sent on the SIEC listserv.

**V. Election of Vice-Chair**

Mr. Abbiatti spoke about the responsibilities of the Vice Chair for the Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee and then introduced Mr. Rizwan Ahmed, Chief Information Officer, Office of Information and Technology. Mr. Ahmed made comments of his responsibilities as Chief Information Officer for the State of Louisiana.

Mr. Abbiatti called for nominations for Vice Chair. Lt. Colonel Booth nominated Mr. Rizwan Ahmed as Vice Chair for the Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee.

**On motion of Lt. Colonel Joey Booth, seconded by Ms. Susan Severance, the Committee voted unanimously to elect Mr. Rizwan Ahmed as Vice Chair for the Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee.**

**VI. Completion of Sub-Committee Appointments**

Mr. Abbiatti recommended that a Policies and Procedures Sub-Committee be established. He then stated the responsibilities of the Sub-Committee.

After further discussion,

**On motion of Lt. Colonel Freddie Morris, seconded by Mr. Rizwan Ahmed, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the recommendation to establish the Policies and Procedures Sub-Committee.**

**VII. Sub-Committee Assignments**

Mr. Abbiatti introduced a course of action relative to Sub-Committee assignments that, if approved, would be activated at the 14 June SIEC meeting. He then presented the Operational Strategy for the SIEC:

1. Primary Goals (3)
2. Issues to be resolved (5)
3. Course(s) of action
4. Resource Requirements
5. Timeline (Realistic)

Mr. Ahmed said the Operational Strategy would be effective for the SIEC. The SIEC unanimously adopted the proposed operational strategy.

**VIII. Reports and updates**

Mr. Abbiatti thanked Mr. Leonard Kleinpeter, Ms. Susan Severance, Mr. Matt Farlow, Colonel Whitehorn, Lt. Colonel Joey Booth, Major Mickey McMorris, Colonel Ron Johnson, and Lt. Colonel Freddie Morris for their presentations on the status of interoperability regarding the 2006 hurricane season at the Legislative Briefing on May 31, 2006.

Chief Robert Black inquired if the Region working groups were notified by Colonel Jeff Smith about assigning a permanent representative to serve on the SIEC from the nine (9) regions of OHSEP. Mr. Abbiatti stated that Colonel Smith had until July 1, 2006 to complete the assignments.

**IX. New Business**

Lt. Colonel Booth, on behalf of Colonel Whitehorn, proposed a Resolution to the Committee that clearly defines the SIEC position relative to fees for updating subscriber equipment using software updates. The SIEC opposes such fees for any vendor due to the negative impact of the costs on the overall interoperability program. After further discussion regarding corrections to the Resolution from Colonel Hughes, Colonel Eric Sivula, and Mr. Rex McDonald, the Committee passed a motion to have SIEC adopt the resolution for it to read as follows:

*WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana and many of its political subdivisions have invested in radios which are APCO P 25 capable to operate on P 25 compliant 700MHz and 800MHz infrastructures;*

*WHEREAS, most of the aforementioned radios were purchased as P 25 capable radios; and*

*WHEREAS, some of the P 25 capable radios will not operate on the 700 MHz and 800MHz P 25 infrastructures absent expensive software upgrades:*

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee urge and request manufacturers of P 25 capable radios to offer a low or no cost solution to flash upgrade the aforementioned radios to permit their operation on both 700MHz and 800MHz P 25 compliant infrastructures for those radios which have been purchased as P 25 capable units.*

**On motion of Lt. Colonel Joey Booth, seconded by Chief Robert Black, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the Resolution.**

Mr. Ahmed inquired about the technology being used in Region 1 Plaquemines OHSEP. Mr. McDonald explained to the Committee the technology being used in Region 1 Parishes.

Mr. Abbiatti reminded the Committee that the next meeting, June 14<sup>th</sup>, will be held at the Claiborne Conference Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 1-153 Iowa Room in Baton Rouge.

**X. Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

**XI. Adjournment**

In the absence of further business, Chair Abbiatti adjourned the Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee meeting at 2:50 p.m.

**APPENDIX  
GUEST LIST  
June 7, 2006**

**NAME**

Christina Dayries  
Matt Farlow  
Rodney Hoyt  
Rex McDonald

**AFFILIATION**

State Police  
GOHSEP  
Livingston Parish Homeland Security  
Dept. of Public Safety